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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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November 1, 2019

VIA E-MAIL

Vermont League of Cities and Towns
Attn: Vermont Mayors, Town Managers and Selectboard Members
89 Main Street, Ste. 4
Montpelier, VT 05602

Re: Opioid Litigation

Dear Vermont Mayors, Town Managers and Selectboard Members:

I am writing to address recent questions arising from a notice inviting Vermont cities and towns to join a Negotiation Class involving opioid related litigation. We believe Vermont cities and towns should seriously consider joining the Negotiation Class because it provides a way to participate in recent efforts to settle on-going litigation against the manufacturers, distributors, and large pharmacies that created the opioid epidemic. The Negotiation Class provides the opportunity to participate without having to file a lawsuit, hire attorneys, and incur additional attorneys' fees. Vermont cities and towns will be automatically enrolled in the Negotiation Class, unless they opt out by November 22, 2019. Answers to frequently asked questions related to the Negotiation Class can be found at <https://www.opioidsnegotiationclass.info/Home/FAQ>.

Many of you are dealing with the enormous fallout from the opioid epidemic. The harm to our communities has been staggering. The opioid crisis has caused a devastating loss of life in Vermont. Families have been torn apart, and many lives left in ruin. We have expended precious, limited resources to care for victims and the aftermath of addiction. This includes medical treatment, mental health care, family services, first responders such as police and rescue, and so many others.

It has been my number one priority as Attorney General to hold accountable those who have caused the opioid epidemic. We have sued opioid manufacturer Purdue Pharma, its owners the Sackler family, and the pharmaceutical distributors to bring those responsible for this epidemic to justice. I anticipate more lawsuits will follow. It is our intention that recoveries

from these lawsuits will be utilized to address the opioid crisis across Vermont. And, I know many of Vermont's cities and towns would also like to take part in these efforts.

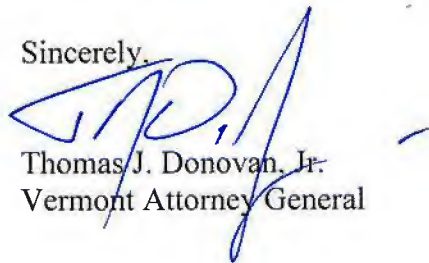
Many of you have been asked to take part in the Negotiation Class as part of the multi-district litigation or "MDL" in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. This MDL has gathered thousands of cases brought by other cities and towns across the country. The MDL essentially is the federal court's way of consolidating all these cases before a single court to efficiently address all these claims. The judge in the MDL authorized the creation of a Negotiation Class as a means for all cities and towns across the country to participate in the fruits of any settlement activity arising out of this court. You can participate without having to file your own case or hire your own attorneys.

To see the how monies might be divided across the country, and in your particular community, you can go to www.OpioidsNegotiationClass.info. You will automatically be included in this Negotiation Class unless you provide notice of your decision to "opt-out" by November 22, 2019.

It is my recommendation that Vermont cities and towns seriously consider participating in this Negotiation Class. As stated above, you can participate in the potential fruits of a settlement without having to file a lawsuit, hire attorneys, and most important incur additional attorneys' fees and costs.

I respect that each municipality will consider their individual needs and determine the best path for their community. Regardless how you may choose, the Vermont Attorney General's Office will continue to seek justice for the entire State of Vermont and hold those accountable who created and profited from the opioid crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. J. Donovan, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

Thomas J. Donovan, Jr.
Vermont Attorney General